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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for September 15, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN: Agricultural experts advise that cultivation through irrigation should be stopped for three years in the vast fertile plain of Harran in Sanliurfa province because of the salt accumulation resulting from the improper irrigation practices of the farmers.

ZAMAN: Farmers in the Amik Plain of Hatay have been suffering from the flooding of the Asi River in wintertime and from draught in the summertime. The Asi River originates in Syria, and Syria reportedly has been releasing water in winter and stopping the release in summer.

RADIKAL / ZAMAN / HURRIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM / EVRENSEL / BOLGE / EKSPRES / SABAH (GUNEY): In a series of speeches made in Van, Diyarbakir, and lastly in Adana, Chief of Turkish General Staff Hilmi Ozkok, stressed the themes of solidarity and unity against provocations.

ZAMAN: Celal Dogan, former Gaziantep Mayor from the CHP (Republican People's Party), dismissed claims that he would set up a "Kurdish Party" together with the DTH (Democratic Society Movement). Dogan said that it would be a gullible act to form a party that would take its roots solely from an ethnic base.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Justice Minister Cemil Cicek reportedly said that the case of terrorist leader Abdullah Ocalan was closed and Ocalan would not be allowed to see his attorneys anymore.

EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Diyarbakir's Human Rights Association (HRA) announced a report covering the last three months saying that 123 people lost their lives in clashes during the report's timeframe. According to the report 118 people were wounded in clashes and 165 people were detained for a variety of reasons. Thirteen people died and 40 people were wounded as a result of mine explosions in the region.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Leading 120 members of the intelligentsia in Europe made a declaration in the Le Monde newspaper demanding a democratic and just solution to the Kurdish problem.

BOLGE / EKSPRES: "From the Streets to the Future", a project of the Adana Street Children's Association, which is being supported by the EU as well, has been providing vocational training in six different professions to 172 children. Five months of the 10-month training, which will last ten months, have been completed to date, and six trainees have already found jobs.

EKSPRES: DYP Provincial Chairperson Nevzat Saskin criticized Adana Mayor Aytac Durak for taking part in a delegation to Ankara to convince the GoT to increase its corn incentives. Saskin reportedly advised Durak to deal with more urgent matters of Adana, such as the still-unfinished light metro project.

EKSPRES / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): The GoT started to distribute fuel oil and fertilizer incentives to farmers.

CUMHURİYET: The daily reported that the U.S. was using the Iskenderun port in the Hatay province to deliver logistic support to U.S. forces deployed in Iraq.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. BOLGE: Farmers in Adana's Ceyhan district will hold a big demonstration tomorrow to protest the agricultural policies of the GoT (see press summary 09/14).

2. BOLGE: Export volumes to Iraq over the last eight months have reportedly pleased Southeastern exporters.

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